

## APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CLEANING MEMBRANE FILTRATION MODULES

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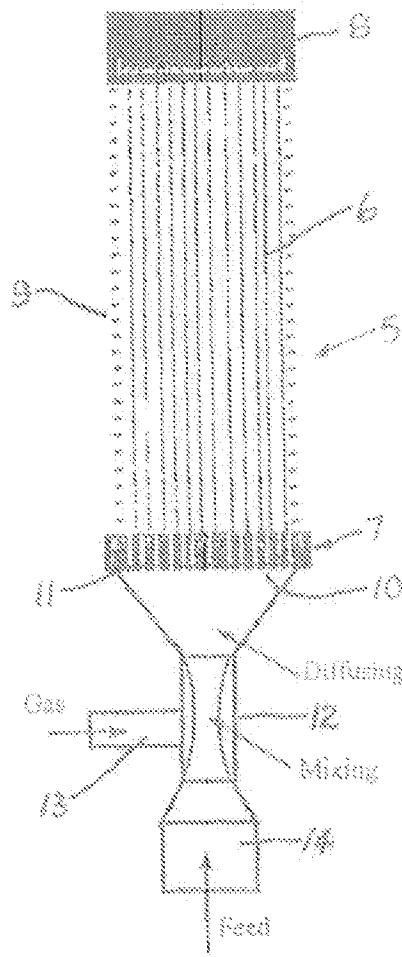
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A method and apparatus for cleaning a membrane module (5), the membrane module comprising a plurality of porous membranes (6), said membranes being arranged in close proximity to one another and mounted to prevent excessive movement therebetween, and means (10, 12) for providing, from within the module (5), by means other than gas passing through the pores of said membranes, gas bubbles entrained in liquid flow such that, in use, said liquid and bubbles (18) entrained therein move past the surfaces of said membranes to dislodge fouling materials therefrom, said gas bubbles being entrained in said liquid by flowing said liquid past a source of gas to draw the gas into said liquid flow. The gas bubbles are entrained into the liquid using a venturi type device (13). The membranes (20) are preferably partitioned into discrete groups (23) to assist cleaning while maintaining high packing density.



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